

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 10, 23, 41 and 50, amend Claims 1, 6-9, 11, 14, 27, and 42, and add Claims 54-57 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A desiccant ~~able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic acid passivation material, said desiccant~~ comprising:
  - a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of ~~polysaccharides, polyamines, and polyamides~~ poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(2-vinylpyridine), poly(4-vinylpyridine), and copolymers of 2-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine;
  - a drying agent dispersed in said binder; and
  - said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.
2. (Previously presented) The desiccant of Claim 1, wherein said drying agent is a molecular sieve.
3. (Previously presented) The desiccant of Claim 1, wherein said drying agent is a zeolite.
4. (Previously presented) The desiccant of Claim 1, said polymer to said drying agent weight ratio being 1:4 to 1:10.
5. (Previously presented) The desiccant of Claim 1, further comprising:
  - a solvent, said polymer and said drying agent to solvent weight ratio being 2:1 to 1:100.
6. (Currently amended) The desiccant of Claim 11, wherein said polymer is a structural polysaccharide.
7. (Currently amended) The desiccant of Claim 11, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, chitin, and their functional derivatives.
8. (Currently amended) The desiccant of Claim 11, wherein said polymer is poly(vinylpyrrolidone).
9. (Currently amended) The desiccant of Claim 11, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(2-vinylpyridine), poly(4-vinylpyridine), and copolymers of 2-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine.
10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A desiccant of Claim 1, further comprising:
  - a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, and polyamides;
  - a drying agent dispersed in said binder;
  - a carboxylic acid passivation material, said carboxylic acid passivation material absorbed by said polymer; and
  - said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.
12. (Previously presented) The desiccant of Claim 11, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is a perfluoroalkanoic acid.
13. (Previously presented) The desiccant of Claim 11, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is perfluorodecanoic acid.
14. (Currently amended) A device comprising:
  - a micromechanical machine;
  - a package enclosing said micromechanical machine; and
  - a desiccant enclosed by said package, ~~said desiccant able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic acid passivation material;~~ said desiccant comprising:
    - a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, and polyamides;
    - a drying agent dispersed in said binder; and
    - said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.
15. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said drying agent is a molecular sieve.
16. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said drying agent is a zeolite.
17. (Original) The device of Claim 14, said polymer to said drying agent weight ratio being 1:4 to 1:10.
18. (Original) The device of Claim 14, further comprising:
  - a solvent, said polymer and said drying agent to solvent weight ratio being 2:1 to 1:100.
19. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said polymer is a structural polysaccharide.
20. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said polymer is selected from the group

- consisting of cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, chitin, and their functional derivatives.
21. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said polymer is poly(vinylpyrrolidone).
22. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(2-vinylpyridine), poly(4-vinylpyridine), and copolymers of 2-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Original) The device of Claim 14, further comprising:  
a carboxylic acid passivation material, said carboxylic acid passivation material absorbed by said polymer.
25. (Original) The device of Claim 24, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is a perfluoroalkanoic acid.
26. (Original) The device of Claim 24, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is perfluorodecanoic acid.
27. (Currently amended) A method of applying a desiccant ~~able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic acid passivation material~~, said method comprising the steps of:  
mixing said desiccant, said mixing comprising mixing:  
a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, and polyamides; and  
a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100;  
applying said desiccant to a surface; and  
curing said desiccant.
28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of:  
conditioning said desiccant by allowing said desiccant to absorb a carboxylic acid passivation material.
29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of:  
conditioning said desiccant by allowing said desiccant to absorb a perfluoroalkanoic acid passivation material.
30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of:

conditioning said desiccant by allowing said desiccant to absorb a perfluorodecanoic acid passivation material.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, said curing step comprising heating said desiccant in the presence of a vacuum.
32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, said conditioning step comprising heating said desiccant in the presence of a vacuum.
33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, said conditioning step comprising the steps of:
  - heating said desiccant in the presence of a vacuum; and
  - exposing said desiccant to said carboxylic acid passivation material.
34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28, said conditioning step comprising the steps of:
  - heating said desiccant in the presence of a vacuum; and
  - depositing said carboxylic acid passivation material in solid form directly in a package; and
  - sealing said package; and
  - heating said package so that said carboxylic acid passivation material is absorbed into said desiccant.
35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:
  - a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, and polyamides;
  - a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100; and
  - a solvent, wherein said polymer and said drying agent to solvent weight ratio is 2:1 to 1:100.
36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:
  - a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides,

polyamines, and polyamides;

a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100; and

a solvent, wherein said polymer and said drying agent to solvent weight ratio is 1:1 to 1:10.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:  
a structural polysaccharide; and  
a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said structural polysaccharide to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.
38. (Original) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:  
a polymer selected from the group consisting of cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, chitin, and their functional derivatives; and  
a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.
39. (Original) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:  
poly(vinylpyrrolidone); and  
a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said poly(vinylpyrrolidone) to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.
40. (Original) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:  
a polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(2-vinylpyridine), poly(4-vinylpyridine), and copolymers of 2-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine; and  
a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.
41. (Canceled)
42. (Currently amended) An image projection system comprising:  
a light source providing a beam of light along a light path;  
a micromirror on said light path, said micromirror device selectively reflecting portions of said beam of light in response to image data and control signals, said micromirror device comprising:

a micromechanical machine;  
a package enclosing said micromechanical machine; and  
a desiccant enclosed by said package, ~~said desiccant able to reversibly absorb~~  
~~a carboxylic acid passivation material~~, said desiccant comprising:  
a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of  
polysaccharides, polyamines, and polyamides;  
a drying agent dispersed in said binder; and  
wherein said polymer to drying agent weight ratio is 1:2.1 to 1:100  
projection optics receiving said selectively reflected portions of said beam of  
light and focusing said selectively reflected portions of said beam of light onto an  
image plane.

43. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said drying agent is a molecular sieve.
44. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said drying agent is a zeolite.
45. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, said polymer to said drying agent weight ratio being 1:4 to 1:10.
46. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said polymer is a structural polysaccharide.
47. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, chitin, and their functional derivatives.
48. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said polymer is poly(vinylpyrrolidone).
49. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(2-vinylpyridine), poly(4-vinylpyridine), and copolymers of 2-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine.
50. (Canceled)
51. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, further comprising:

a carboxylic acid passivation material, said carboxylic acid passivation material absorbed by said polymer.

52. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 51, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is a perfluoroalkanoic acid.
53. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 51, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is perfluorodecanoic acid.
54. (New) The desiccant of Claim 1, said desiccant able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic passivation material.
55. (New) The desiccant of Claim 11, said desiccant able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic passivation material.
56. (New) The device of Claim 14, said desiccant able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic passivation material.
57. (New) The image projection system of Claim 42, said desiccant able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic passivation material.